

Announcements from the New Orleans/ Lake Pontchartrain Urban Waters Partnership



<https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/urban-waters-and-lake-pontchartrain-areanew-orleans-louisiana>

Greetings Partners,

Thank you for attending the quarterly meeting for the New Orleans/Lake Pontchartrain Urban Waters Federal Partnership that was held on February 4th. It was an excellent opportunity to get updates from many local and federal partners on projects they have ongoing that benefit community health and the environment. EPA Region 6 Water Division Director, Charles Maguire was in attendance and gave an overview of the Region's commitment to the Urban Waters Program, plus provide some insight on the incoming Administration's support for the program.

As mentioned during the meeting the Urban Waters [Progress Report](#) has been released. This Progress Report summarizes the accomplishments and significant milestones of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) working in 20 urban locations across the country. This Report is the first in a series of Progress Reports that will detail the specific program achievements at the federal and local level. The New Orleans/Lake Pontchartrain Project location can be found of page 14 of the report: <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/progress-report-urban-waters-program>.

Below is the Hot Topic Newsletter of the New Orleans/Lake Pontchartrain Urban Waters Federal Partnership which contains EPA announcements, upcoming events, and funding opportunities that may be of interest. Please continue to send comments/suggestions about articles featured in this newsletter to me cole.rochelle@epa.gov. Have a great weekend !

Rochelle Cole

ORISE Participant *assigned to* USEPA Region 4

New Orleans/Lake Pontchartrain Urban Waters

EPA Announcements

Urban Waters Progress Report is Out

EPA, on behalf of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, released the first-ever [Progress Report](#) on the Urban Waters Program.



The Report highlights the accomplishments of the entire program over the last few years, working across its twenty designated locations nationwide, as well as its support for communities outside the formally designated cities. The Report covers a wide variety of local and national accomplishments that showcase how the program is successfully achieving its core goals of improving local waterways and connecting communities – especially underserved and under-resourced ones – more closely to their local waters.

Through funding, staff support, technical assistance, information exchange, and other means, the Program is connecting partners and communities across the country to the tools, best practices, and networking opportunities that lead to catalytic change in water resource management. **Please share this report with your stakeholder networks.**

These achievements are made possible by the hard work and dedication of supporting organizations, Ambassadors, and local leaders at the federal, state, local, and tribal levels. Your efforts and leadership in performing this vital work are deeply appreciated at EPA.

Welcome our new Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, Radhika Fox

Prior to her appointment at EPA, Radhika Fox was the Chief Executive Officer of the US Water Alliance, a national nonprofit organization advancing policies and programs that build a sustainable water future for all. She has more than 20 years of experience in developing, policies, programs and issue-based advocacy campaigns on the most salient water issues facing the nation including climate change, affordability and innovative finance, water infrastructure investment, equity, and the evolution of the “One Water” movement. We welcome Radhika and look forward to her leadership.



Welcome our Newest Water Reuse Team Member, Rabia Chaudhry

Dr. Rabia Chaudhry joined the EPA Water Reuse Team as the National Water Reuse Expert in mid-January. She is a licensed Professional Engineer with 14 years of experience in a range of domestic and international water issues. Her doctoral research at UC Berkeley within the research center ReNUWIt (Reinventing the Nation's Urban Water Infrastructure) included water reuse projects involving virus removal in membrane-based wastewater treatment, and quantitative microbial risk assessment to inform California water reuse policy. Before joining the EPA, she served as the Associate Director at the Millennium Challenge Corporation supporting design and implementation of multi-million-dollar foreign assistance programs in water and energy infrastructure in several countries. She currently serves as a committee chair within the International Council of the American Water Works Association. Rabia received her bachelor's in environmental engineering from MIT, and her master's degree and Ph.D. from UC Berkeley.



Newsletter Highlights

Pontchartrain Conservancy's Lakefront Learning Laboratory

Community Scientists will bring water samples to the [New Canal Lighthouse Museum in New Orleans](#). They can be a part of Pontchartrain Conservancy's Lakefront Algae and MicroPlastic Scientists (L.A.M.P.S.), learn about water quality conditions, and detect algae and analyze microplastics found in surrounding waterways. Community Scientists are encouraged to bring in water samples from their favorite places to shine a light on pollution.

For more information visit: <https://scienceforourcoast.org/pc-programs/water-quality/lakefront-learning-laboratory/>

Upcoming Webinars

February 9th: Understanding of Current Aquifer Storage and Recovery Practices Webinar

Join a webinar hosted by the Ground Water Protection Council Aquifer Storage and Recovery/Managed Aquifer Recharge Workgroup as part of the Groundwater and Underground Injection Control (UIC) Educational Series. EPA presenters Justin Mattingly, Thomas Johnson, and Kara Goodwin will provide updates on the state of practice for water reuse, stormwater, and UIC. This webinar is affiliated with WRAP Action 2.7.4: [Increase Understanding of Current Aquifer Storage and Recovery Practices](#).

Learn more about the presenters and register [here](#).

EPA: Environmental Justice and Systemic Racism Speaker Series: March 4, 2021 at 12:00 – 1:00 pm EST

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching the Environmental Justice (EJ) and Systemic Racism Speaker Series by featuring [The Mapping Inequality Project](#) on **March 4, 2021 at 12:00 – 1:00 pm**

EST. This unique collaboration created a foundational resource for unprecedented research, education, organizing, and policy advocacy on redlining and current environmental challenges. It provides publicly accessible digitized versions of redlining maps for about 200 cities. This has already generated an explosion of trailblazing work in the area of EJ and systemic racism. Project co-founders Robert Nelson, University of Richmond, and LaDale Winling, Virginia Tech, will discuss the genesis, philosophy, methodology, and impact of this game changing project. [Register Here](#)

We begin this series with a set of five sessions that thoroughly examines the relationship of redlining and current environmental disparities. The recent National Center for Civil and Human Rights webinar on [EJ, redlining and the climate crisis](#) provides a good overview of this subject.

The objectives of this speaker series are:

- Provide information on groundbreaking, cutting-edge work in science, policy and practice to strengthen the evidentiary link between historical inequities and current environmental conditions;
- Inspire leaders and staff in communities, academia, business and industry, and civil society to think about how systemic racism relates to their own work by hearing from leading national policy experts, researchers and practitioners;
- Align government leaders and staff with the leading work taking place in this area and create a cohesive environment for fruitful partnerships; and
- Create intellectual ferment about dealing with systemic racism in a rigorous manner so that EPA and other environmental agencies can overcome their historical aversion to talking about race and systemic racism.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Future speakers:

- Dr. Jeremy Hoffman, Science Museum of Virginia, and Dr. Vivek Shandas, Portland State University, on a study correlating redlining maps with current location of urban heat islands (April 2021)
- Cate Mingoya, Groundwork USA, Victor Medina, Groundwork Hudson Valley, and Melissa Guevara, Groundwork Richmond, Virginia, on application of this information in community organizing and policy advocacy (May 2021)
- Yana Garcia and Jaimie Huynh, California EPA, on CalEPA's work on redlining and pollution (June 2021)
- Roundtable Discussion: Enhancing multi-disciplinary and multi-sector collaboration to address redlining and current environmental disparities (July 2021)

Future topics will include:

Title VI and civil rights program, EJ research and analysis, rural inequities, and others. Suggestions are welcomed. Registration information for each session forthcoming. For information, contact Charles Lee (lee.charles@epa.gov) or Sabrina Johnson (johnson.sabrina@epa.gov).

River Rally — Virtual event will be May 17-20, 2021

The 2021 River Rally hosted by the River Network will be a virtual event. This will be the second virtual River Rally and will feature an awards ceremony, peer-to-peer engagement and information exchange. To register for the River Rally, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

NEW! RFA for Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Program

EPA is soliciting applications from eligible applicants to (1) assist in the development and use of innovative activities relating to water workforce development and career opportunities in the drinking water and wastewater utility sector, and (2) expand public awareness about drinking water and wastewater utilities and to connect individuals to careers in the drinking water and wastewater utility sector. Project area #1 includes green infrastructure training.

Visit for more information:

<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/rfa-innovative-water-infrastructure-workforce-development-program>

The closing date and time for application submissions is March 26th , 2021 by 11:59 PM, Eastern Time (ET) in order to be considered for funding.

Eligibility:

Eligible applicants under this competition are nonprofit professional or service organizations, nonprofit labor organizations, nonprofit community colleges, institutions of higher education, or other nonprofit training and educational institutions. Individuals and for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply. Nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in prohibited lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply.

Available funding:

The total estimated amount of federal funding potentially available under this announcement is approximately \$1,000,000 depending on Agency funding levels, the quality of applications received, Agency priorities, and other applicable considerations. It is anticipated that up to five cooperative

agreements will be awarded under this announcement, each with a project period of up to three years, depending on the amount requested and overall size and scope of the projects(s).

- [RFA for Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Program \(PDF\)](#)



FY 2020 EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs including CARES Act Funding

Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration- Applications Accepted on a Rolling Basis

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) invites applicants to submit applications under its Public Works program and Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) programs. Through these programs, EDA invites applications to request grant assistance for clearly defined construction or non-construction assistance projects that will advance job creation, job retention and private investment or enhance economic development decision-making, respectfully. Through EDA's grant programs construction may support the construction of new public assets or the renovation of existing public assets, which include but are not limited to water/sewer lines, tanks, systems, pumps; incubators; access roads; workforce training facilities; commercialization centers; and port improvements. EDA's non-construction projects can support a wide array of activities, including highest and best use analysis, cluster and supply chain mapping studies, and regional technical assistance projects. Matching share funds are required and must be committed at the time of the project and for the same scope of work. For Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs the match is generally 50 percent, although communities may qualify for a higher grant rate. Applications accepted on a rolling basis. To learn more and to discuss potential projects, please contact Hillary Sherman at hsherman@eda.gov.

- [FY 2020 EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs including CARES Act Funding](#)

NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program — Requests considered on a rolling basis through March 2021 –

National Parks Service is accepting applications for community assistance in conservation and outdoor recreation. Project applicants may be state and local agencies, tribes, nonprofit organizations or citizen groups. National Parks and other federal agencies may apply in partnership with other local organizations. Visit the funding opportunity description [here](#).

Common Counsel's Grassroots Exchange Fund — no submission deadline —

The Grassroots Exchange Fund is a rapid response small grants program which supports collaboration between grassroots social change and environmental justice organizations. A Grassroots Exchange Fund grant is typically \$1,000 and is distributed twice monthly on a rolling cycle. Visit the [Exchange Fund](#) webpage for more information.



Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** ★★ ★



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®

